

City of Rockville Commission on the Environment
April 8, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Faith Klareich (FK), Seth Adams (SA), David Davis (DD), Kris Dighe (KD), Michelle Clark (MC), Beri Kravitz (BK), Tolulope Odunlami (TO) and Geoff Sanders (GS).

Absent: No one.

Also in attendance: Staff Liaison Nate Wall (NW) and Steve Cardon (SC) – working group member.

1. Welcome, News and Agenda Review

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm in the Blue Crab Room at Rockville City Hall.

FK: benchmarking study update.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

DD moves to approve February 12th meeting minutes as written; SA seconds. Unanimous approval of meeting minutes.

There was not a quorum for the March 11th meeting, thus no official action was taken. Notes from the meeting will be submitted during next month's meeting.

3. Green Building Stakeholder Meetings

FK described the agenda for each of the two stakeholder meetings. Both meetings will be opened by a speech from the Mayor. FK will follow with an overview of the City's built environment, the purpose of a green building program and the goals for the program. That will be followed by a brief discussion of case studies. In the residential presentations, definitions of green building terms will be stressed in case the audience is not as familiar with them.

Following the introductory portion of the meeting, participants will be broken up into smaller break out groups. These breakout groups will discuss specifics under each of the brainstorming categories (financial/market, technical/institutional, education/training/outreach, etc).

FK mentioned that it will be as important to get the "why" behind a given statement (i.e., a certain aspect of the program mattered to this individual because they worked as an X, and therefore felt that Y would be too restrictive). Also, want to be aware that we will be listening for components to policy – not just a list of gripes/barriers.

FK will go over the Next Steps, letting participants know that there will be ample opportunity for comment in the coming months. NW mentioned that there is now a new Rockville email address set up: greenbuilding@rockvillemd.gov - we can publicize this as an easy route for feedback.

FK then mentioned that the commercial stakeholder meeting will proceed similarly, but there will be a second breakout group that will discuss in detail those issues decided upon as most important from the first breakout session (this will be done via participant voting). Participants will likely self-select which topics they wish to attend for the second breakout session.

The Commission discussed whether any handouts would be helpful – perhaps a description of the Commission and Working Groups, some information from the Strategy for a Sustainable Rockville, and possibly a glossary of green building terms. NW to send out file working group descriptions compiled for the City Manager's info packet several years ago – this could be basis for handout.

After these meetings have concluded, the Commission will take the comments recorded by Keystone and formulate them into policy guidance for City Staff and the Mayor & Council.

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Members of the Commission who will be attending the stakeholder meetings:

Residential: FK, TO, DD, KD, SA and SC

Commercial: FK, SA, TO and maybe GS

4. Science Day

Discussed various ideas for Science Day exhibit including CFL giveaway; comparison of CFL vs incandescent bulb using the “Kill-A-Watts”; perhaps a demonstration of “phantom load”; a static globe for the kids; maybe a small PV panel / PV car?; educational materials. GS to contact Home Depot, Ikea, Germantown Walmart, Whole Foods / MOM to see about CFL donations.

Commission plans to hold an interim meeting on Tuesday April 22nd to discuss plans for Science Day in more detail, and to debrief on the Green Building Stakeholders meeting.

5. Working Group Updates

Community Outreach Working Group

The Community Outreach Working Group will be meeting in May.

Watershed Protection Working Group

The Watershed Protection group mentioned the Commission’s official adoption of the Maryvale stream segment, and that a cleanup will be scheduled for May 30th from 10am - Noon. The group would like to contact both the East Rockville Civic Association as well as Burgundy Estates to see if they would like to join in on the cleanup effort.

The Watershed Protection group are also working to finalize their educational brochures.

High Performance Building and Outreach Working Group

Met and brainstormed issues for the upcoming green building stakeholder meetings. They are putting together case studies for presentation during the introductory portion of the meetings.

6. Staff Updates

NW mentioned that the City-sponsored sites as part of the Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup event on Sat. April 5th were a huge success: over 72 volunteers participated at 4 sites throughout Rockville, collecting more than 130 bags of trash and over 40 tires.

NW and DD had discussed a method of storing Commission files on the web in a readily accessible format. NW to look in to setting up a “Box.net” account for the Commisison.

Also, NW mentioned that the Commission could start holding their monthly meetings at different venues throughout Rockville – may be nice for a change of pace. There was general agreement that this would be a welcome change, and NW will look in to setting that up starting later this summer.

7. Possible Closed Session

The Commission met in closed session to discuss filling Sura Yakowitz’s vacant slot. GS moves, and TO seconds to recommend to the Mayor & Council that Steve Cardon be appointed to the Environment Commission. Unanimous decision to recommend SC to the Mayor & Council for appointment.

The one-year term position for Chair of the Environment Commission expires on April 30th. It was decided that the Commission will defer a vote on the Chair position until the May meeting.

8. Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.